

**Vermilion County Conservation District
Headquarters: Kennekuk County Park
Danville, IL**

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Wednesday, August 16, 2017
4:30 p.m.
Kennekuk Environmental Education Center
Kennekuk County Park
Danville, IL**

President Myers called the August Regular Meeting of the Vermilion County Conservation District Board of Trustees to order and opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Roll call showed the following to be present.

Trustees Present: Bob W. Arnholt
Perry A. Jaynes
Jonathan A. Myers

Trustee(s) Absent: Allen E. Cooke
Charles B. Schroeder

In attendance were Executive Director Konsis and Associate Director Pasquale.

Staff members present included Charlie Rhoden, Mike Kotcher and Gary Tyrl.

First order of business, agenda item number four, was the Adoption of, or Amendments to the Agenda.

President Myers asked for amendments to the agenda.

With no amendments, *Trustee Jaynes moved to approve the agenda as presented. This was followed by a second from Trustee Arnholt. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.*

Agenda item number five was the Approval of the Minutes from the July 19, 2017, Regular Meeting.

Trustee Jaynes moved to approve the July 19, 2017, Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. This was followed by a second from Trustee Arnholt. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.

Item number six a. Audience Comments. There were none.

Agenda item number seven, the Treasurer's Report. President Myers asked if there were any questions on items seven a through d.

With no questions or comments, *Trustee Jaynes moved to approve the Current List of Bills from July 2017 in the amount of \$17,584.58, which included check #'s 37429 -37452; the Manual Checks for July 2017 in the amount of \$44,271.11 which included check #'s 37230 – 37240, 37275 – 37289, 37322 – 37324, and 37359 – 37377; the General Journal Entries for July 31, 2017; and the July 2017 Budget Report. This was followed by a second from Trustee Arnholt.*

President Myers requested a roll call vote. The results as follows:

Trustee Jaynes	-	yes
Trustee Arnholt	-	yes
President Myers	-	yes

The vote was 3 – 0 in favor, motion carried.

Agenda item number seven e. Executive Director Konsis reported that a check was received from the Herzig Estate in the amount of \$23,525.00. The Certificate of Deposit comes due on September 11, 2017; what is the Board's recommendation to reinvest this amount?

President Myers stated that Morgan Stanley has a eleven month CD with an interest rate of 1.9% that he will check to see the date of investment. There was no decision made at this time regarding reinvestment.

Executive Director Konsis asked the Board if they wished to dedicate the Herzig Estate dollars toward a specific fund, since there were no stipulations.

After a brief discussion, the Board was in agreement to place the amount into the General Fund.

The grand total of cash and investments as of August 16, 2017, was \$1,022,295.00; less bond funds: \$528,295.00. This compares to the grand total of \$349,825.00, August 2016.

President Myers asked if there were any questions from the Trustees regarding any of the accounts or investments. There were none.

Agenda item number eight, Specific Items of Business to be Transacted.

Item eight a. Presentation by Neubert Communications. Executive Director Konsis introduced Preston Neubert. Preston introduced Duane Law, CEO and gave the Trustees an Executive Summary relative to Kennekuk County Park. Duane and Preston gave a history of how Neubert Communication began, and presented the problem and their proposed solution. The technology used is cellular and allows for a range of a eight mile radius from the main cell tower with the ability to provide broadband to residents living in wooded areas. The broadband will not have data caps, data throttling or be affected by poor weather. A 200' tower would be installed which will distribute wireless LTE internet to Kennekuk County Park and therefore be offered to its surrounding residents. This tower

will allow the park to resell the internet via a profit sharing program with Neubert Communications. A projected balance sheet was provided with the summary report.

The representatives answered many questions regarding speed, connectivity, and reliability from the Board and audience.

President Myers asked that copies be made of the proposal and be sent to each Trustee so that it may be reviewed in depth.

Preston estimated the upfront cost to be \$140,000.00 which would be 50% of the total cost of the tower.

Item eight b. Presentation of Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Audit by Crowder APA's Ltd. Executive Director Konsis introduced Karen Crowder. Each Trustee had been given a copy of the V.C.C.D. Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2017. Karen explained that the District had an unqualified report, or in other words, the best audit report possible.

Karen explained the attached letters to the Board of Trustees and Management of the V.C.C.D. She presented the complete audit report, highlighting significant reports, statements, and notes.

The Governmental Funds Balance Sheet shows a positive balance. The Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances for Governmental Funds on page eleven show that ALL funds have a positive balance. Details of all funds are listed here.

Pages three through eight contain management's discussion and analysis of the District's financial activities for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2017. This clarifies the financial statements included in the annual report.

Pages eleven through fifteen are fund financial statements regarding expenditures, revenues, assets and liabilities.

Pages sixteen through thirty-four are detail to the notes of the financial statements. Most of these they have seen in the past including lease disclosures.

President Myers commented that the IMRF is almost fully funded, according to the state, which is unusual. His concern is the investment rate of return and the District's liability according to changes in the discount rate.

Karen allayed his concern with the fact the District runs under a modified cash basis.

Page forty-seven contains the schedule of property tax revenue and distribution.

Karen asked for comments and questions.

President Myers stated that the District had negative fund balances, in particular in the insurance fund, over the past three years and Executive Director Konsis has worked to get these to the positive; are we now overcompensating?

This was referred to Gordon Thoennes, representative from Dimond Brothers Insurance, in the audience.

Gordon was unsure, since renewal figures are not in yet.

Brief discussion ensued.

Karen commented that she prefers to see her commercial clients to have a six month reserve in their funds. The insurance fund may have a reserve, but it is *not* a six month reserve.

Karen praised Kim Fox for the information she provides for the auditors which saves them time, in turn saving the District money. Kim is a great asset.

The biggest area of risk the District continues to face is segregation of duties, such as handling of cash by employees along with checks and balances. There are procedures in place and those will be carried out by a new employee who will begin next week.

With no more questions, *Trustee Arnholt moved to accept the Vermilion County Conservation District Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2017. This was followed by a second from Trustee Jaynes.*

President Myers requested a roll call vote. The results as follows:

Trustee Jaynes	-	yes
President Myers	-	yes
Trustee Arnholt	-	yes

The vote was 3 – 0 in favor, motion carried.

Item eight c. Amend specifications for General Liability Insurance bids. Executive Director Konsis explained that the only change to the specifications were the dates. The invitation to bid should have read: the bids should be received on or before 4 p.m. Tuesday, Oct 17, 2017... then sealed bids will be opened at the regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, October 18, 2017.

Trustee Jaynes moved to approve the General Liability Insurance Bid specifications as amended. This was followed by a second from Trustee Arnholt. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.

Item eight d. Accept resignation of Trustee Allen E. Cooke. President Myers stated that Trustee Cooke had submitted his letter of resignation, as of August 17, 2017.

Trustee Jaynes moved to accept Trustee Cooke's resignation, due to relocation, with regrets. This was followed by a second from Trustee Arnholt. All in favor by acclamation, motion carried.

Agenda item number nine was Representative Reports.

Agenda item nine a: IACD Report. Associate Director Pasquale reported that Lara Darling attended the IACD Conference Meeting, August 15, in Starved Rock State Park.

The next meeting is scheduled in October. This concluded the IACD Report.

Agenda item nine b; V.C.C. Foundation Report. Chairman Thoennes was present, as was Director Rick Strebing. Rick reported that, with co-chair Mike Puhr, the Cheeseburgers & Fun event was successful, with great weather and a large crowd of approximately 8,000. There were three live bands performing from 2 – 10 p.m. The car show organizers reported over 450 vehicles registered, a new record. The show was dedicated to Lorna Konsis this year. Donations from the car clubs totaled nearly \$2,000.

Money is still coming in from vendors and other areas so they do not have a final total yet, but revenue is estimated to be \$15,937.00 at this point.

Chairman Thoennes reported that the Lorna J. Konsis Visitor Center dedication is set for August 27, 2017; 1 p.m. The VCCF budget is \$10,000 for the memorial landscape area and reception. The staff has done a phenomenal job getting the building updated and prepared and have worked on all of the landscaping themselves. Steve Lane, City of Danville assisted in the choice of plants.

This concluded the VCCF Report.

Agenda item nine c: IAPD Report. Executive Director Konsis had nothing new to report.

Agenda item nine d: V.C.C.D. Revenue Producing/Expense Reduction Committee Report. President Myers had nothing new to report.

Agenda item nine e: Health Insurance Committee Report. Trustee Jaynes had no report.

Agenda item nine f: V.C.C.D. Education. The Trustees had received the report in their board packet mailing. There were no questions.

Agenda item nine g: V.C.C.D. Maintenance. The Trustees were provided with the District maintenance report in their packets. There were no questions.

This concluded Representative Reports.

Agenda item ten: There was nothing for executive session.

Agenda item eleven: Report from the Associate Director. Associate Director Pasquale referenced the new equipment on display outside; total worth is approximately \$150,000 in vehicles and \$250,000 in equipment. There are still some pieces of equipment not yet procured. Thanks to Charlie Rhoden and Mike Kotcher's crews for getting everything cleaned up and here for viewing.

With Larry Gilliland's assistance the roads are ready for resealing and resurfacing by Ribbe.

This concluded the report of the Associate Director.

Agenda item twelve: Report From Executive Director. Executive Director Konsis stated the progress with the northeast access at Kennekuk will possibly be completed by the

September meeting. Carl Gunter's attorney approved the draft of the lease from District Attorney John Beardsley. Carl will donate the strip of land on which our Lake Mingo Trail lies, and also the culvert. He will do this separate from the lease.

The Kickapoo Rail Trail ribbon cutting ceremony will be Friday, August 25, 5:30 p.m. on Main St., St. Joseph. Trustees are urged to attend. Trustee Arnholt has agreed to co-chair the East Portal KRT Fundraising Committee with Julie Colby. The Budget Implementation Act allows the State to borrow from "special funds" to be re-paid within 24 months of borrowing. Illinois has over 700 special funds.

In regard to the KRT, Allen Cooke has requested that four relay cases left behind from the railroad on the KRT, be donated to the Monticello Railroad Museum. Should the District request a waiver or certificate of insurance?

It was the consensus of the Board that a waiver of some kind be secured.

Jeff Ferry, Dynegy's Senior Director State Government Affairs, scheduled a tour of the power plant facility for Wednesday, September 6. This is open to government officials, so both the VCCD and VCCF Boards are invited. If interested, you must register.

The Vermilion Healthcare Grant application will be renewed this year. It is a grant worth \$50,000 over a two year period.

Meetings Attended: Danville Rail Trail Extension, July 26; Danville Area Convention & Visitor's Bureau, August 16.

Upcoming Meetings include: Tour of SIU with the Dean of Ag, August 17-18, Carbondale; Vermilion Advantage, August 24, 7:30 a.m.; IL Walnut Council Work Day, August 25, Chenoweth property.

The VCCD will be involved with the Georgetown Fair during August 5 – 12 with a District Display showcasing the parks & wildlife. There will be a Solar Eclipse Party on August 21 at the Kennekuk Environmental Education Center beginning at 10:45 a.m. – Free!

The Lorna J. Konsis Visitor Center Dedication is Sunday, August 27, 1:00 p.m. with 250 invitations mailed, we expect a nice crowd.

The next V.C.C.D. Board Meeting will be Wednesday, September 20, 4:30 p.m., Gannett Outdoor Education Center.

This concluded the Report of the Executive Director.

Agenda item thirteen: President's and Trustee's Comments.

President Myers had no comment.

Trustee Jaynes had not comment.

Trustee Arnholt had no comment.

With no further discussion and all business transacted, *Trustee Arnholt moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:58 p.m. This was followed by a second from Trustee Jaynes. All in favor by acclamation.*

Bob W. Arnholt
Secretary
V.C.C.D. Board of Trustees